

**Current affairs: October notes**

**1) The year in which India is set to chair the G-20 summit**

Years:	country to chair G-20
2015:	turkey
2016	china
2017:	Germany
2018:	India

**G-20 Members:**

Brazil, China, Russia, India, South Africa, Australia, Argentina, Canada, France, Indonesia, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, South Korea, United Kingdom (UK), United States (US) and European Union (EU).











**2) The Governor of Meghalaya who has been sworn in as the Governor of Manipur following the death of Mr. Syed Ahmed in September:**

**V. Shanumuganthan**

**3) The rank of India in the Global Competitiveness Index report 2015-16 released by World Economic Forum recently: 55**

Switzerland has retained its top position as the world's most competitive economy for seventh year in a row.

Top 10 countries are: Switzerland, Singapore, United States, Germany, Netherlands, Japan, Hong Kong, Finland, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Global Competitiveness Index ranking				How India is ranked		
		2014-15	2015-16		2014-15	2015-16
	Switzerland	1	1	<b>Sub-indexes</b>		
	Singapore	2	2	Basic requirements	92	80
	US	3	3	Efficiency enhancers	62	58
	Malaysia	20	18	Innovation & sophistication	52	46
	China	28	28	<b>Key parameters</b>		
	Indonesia	34	37	Quality of institutions	70	60
	Russia	53	45	Macro stability	101	91
	South Africa	56	49	Infrastructure	87	81
	India	71	55	Health & primary education	98	84
	Brazil	57	75	Labour market efficiency	112	103
				Tech readiness	121	120

Note: The 2015-16 ranking is of 140 countries, while the 2014-15 one was of 144 countries. Source: World Economic Forum

4) The Indian magician who has been conferred the Merlin Award (popularly known as the Oscar of the magic): **Zenia Bhumgara**

5) The new private sector bank which has launched its operations with 23 branches for corporate and rural customers, becoming the 91st scheduled commercial bank in India: **IDFC Bank**

**Note: IDFC Bank**

IDFC Bank started its operations on October 1, 2015 with 23 branches.

Headquarters: Mumbai.

MD & CEO: Dr. Rajiv B. Lall

Launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on: 19 Oct 2015

The bank was a part of non-banking financial company IDFC (Infrastructure Development Finance Company) which was granted an in-principle approval to set-up a bank in 2014.

6) The new President of Board of Control for Cricket in India who has been chosen following the death of Mr. Jagmohan Dalmiya

**: Shashank Manohar**

7) The language which has been included to be taught in Kendriya Vidyalayas as an additional foreign language (a year after KVs had decided to replace it with Sanskrit): **German**

8) The Ukrainian-born Russian chess grandmaster who has won the Chess World Cup 2015 tournament held in Baku, Azerbaijan: **Sergey Karjakin**

9) The World Bank-assisted 'National Watershed Management Project' approved by the Union Cabinet is named (The project aims to fulfil the watershed component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMSKY) to reduce surface runoff of rainwater, increase groundwater levels and better water availability in rain-fed areas): **Neeranchal**

10) The state which has decided to launch a programme named Food Net to ensure transparency and plug leakage and diversion of farmers produce: **Haryana**

11) The Padma Shri winning Tamil film actress who entered the Guinness Book of World Records for having acted in 1000 films who passed away on 10 Oct 2015: **Manorama**

12) The newly elected Prime Minister of Nepal under the new Constitution who was sworn in by the President Ram Baran Yadav: **Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli**

13) The book written by Jamaican author Marlon James which has been awarded the Man Booker Prize 2015: **A Brief History of Seven Killings**

**14) The theme of World Food Day 2015 observed on 16 October 2015: **Social Protection and Agriculture****

**15) The annual military exercise by the Navies of India, United States and Japan in the Indian Ocean being conducted from Oct 14 to 19 is named: **Exercise Malabar****

**16) The alternative train accommodation scheme to be launched by the Indian Railways to enable waitlisted passengers of train to opt for confirmed berths in alternative trains is named: **vikalp****

17) **Deepika Kumari** wins silver medal in 2015 Archery World Cup Final  
**Abhishek Verma** wins Silver medal at Archery World Cup Final

18) Japan offers soft loan to India for bullet train project

Japan has offered soft loan of 15 billion dollars (Rs 90,000 crore) at an interest rate of less than 1 per cent to India's ambitious first bullet train project viz. Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor along with technology.

19) Himachal Pradesh to host India's first Paragliding World Cup

**20) The Chinese Smartphone making company which has replaced PepsiCo as the title sponsor of Indian Premier League, cricket tournament: **VIVO****

**21) The renowned nuclear scientist who has taken over as the Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy following the retirement of Shri Ratan Kumar Sinha: **Dr. Sekhar Basu****

**22) The public sector bank with which the Indian e-commerce website, Paytm has tied up to offer mobile wallet top up facility through bank ATMs: **Bank of Maharashtra****

**23) The chairperson of ruling Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist Leninist) who has been elected the first woman President of Nepal: Bidhya Devi Bhandari**

**24) The rank of India in the Ease of Doing Business Rankings released by the World Bank group recently (The rank was 134 in the previous release): 130**

**Top 10 Countries:** Singapore (1st), New Zealand (2nd), Denmark (3rd), South Korea (4th), Hong Kong (5th), United Kingdom (6th), United States (7th), Sweden (8th), Norway (9th) and Finland (10th).

**BIRCS Nations:** India ranks lowest in Doing Business among the BRICS nations. Russia (51), South Africa (73), China (84), Brazil (116) and India (130).

#### **About the Ease of Doing Business ranking:**

It is annually released by World Bank in its Doing Business Report.

Ranking of country in this list is based on index averages the country's percentile rankings on 10 indicators each having equal weightage.

A higher ranking of country in this list means that its regulatory environment is more conducive and favourable for the starting and operation of firms.

10 indicators are: business, getting electricity, dealing with construction permits, registering property, protecting investors, getting credit, employing workers, trading across borders, paying taxes, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency.

#### **25) Trans-Pacific Partnership**

On October 5, 2015 the U.S. and 11 other Pacific Rim nations agreed to Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), the largest regional trade accord in history. It is a potentially precedent-setting model for global commerce and worker standards that would tie together 40 per cent of the world's economy. It seeks to eliminate or reduce about 18,000 tariff and non-tariff barriers.

The 11 nations are Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Canada and Vietnam.

**26) KISAN project: C(K)rop Insurance using Space technology and geoiNformatics**

This project will favour use of satellites, drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) and other geospatial technology to collect crop yield data and to assess damage from natural calamities.

27) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has established the world's Highest Terrestrial Research Centre near Pengong Lake at Changla in Ladakh. The centre dubbed as Extreme Altitude Research Centre is located at 17,600 feet above mean sea level and was inaugurated by Director General of DRDO Dr S Christopher.

28) National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) was observed across India on 31 October 2015 to commemorate the 140th birthday of Independent India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Sardar Vallabhai Patel.

**Some important days formed this year only:**

International yoga day: 21 June

National handloom day: 7 August

Constitution day: 26 November

World students day: 15 October

National unity day- 31th October

29) Union Government has appointed senior IRS officer **Najib Shah** as the chairman of Central Board of Excise and Customers (CBEC).

29) Economic affairs secretary **Shaktikanta Das** nominated on RBI Central Board  
Composition: There are 21-members in CBD of RBI. It comprises of Governor, 4 Deputy Governors, 2 Finance Ministry representatives.

10 Directors are nominated by Union Government in order to represent important elements from India's economy. 4 directors are from local boards of RBI which are headquartered at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and New Delhi.

### 30) **RBI allows banks to fix interest rates on gold deposit scheme**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed banks to fix their own interest rates on gold deposits under the Gold Monetisation Scheme.

In this regard RBI has issued guidelines mentioning

Banks are free to set interest rate such as principal and interest on the deposit denominated in gold.

Designated banks will accept gold deposits under the Short Term Bank Deposit (1-3 years), Medium (5-7 years) and Long term (12-15 years) Government Deposit Schemes.

The interest on the gold deposits will be credited in the accounts on the respective due dates and will be periodically withdrawable i.e. at maturity of the deposits.

Short term bank deposits will be applicable cash reserve ratio (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR).

There is no bar for maximum gold deposit but the minimum deposit at one time should be raw gold equivalent to 30 grams of 995 fineness standard.

The raw gold should be in the form of coins, bars, jewellery excluding stones and other metals

Individual banks will determine the provision for premature withdrawal subject to a minimum lock-in period and along with the penalty.

The designated banks may sell or lend the gold accepted under the deposit to Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC) of India for minting India Gold Coins (IGC) and to jewellers or sell it to other designated banks.

31) Senior IAS officer **Alok Rawat** became first male person to be appointed as member of National Commission for Women (NCW). His appointment fills the fourth seat in the five-member body that seeks to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women.

32) Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the **foundation stone Amaravati, a new capital city of Andhra Pradesh** on the occasion of Dussehra and Vijaya Dashmi. The foundation stone of new futuristic capital city of the state was laid at a grand ceremony held in

Guntur district.

33) **Justin Trudeau** of Liberal Party has been elected as 23rd Prime Minister of Canada. He is eldest son of Canada's former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau who was in office for 16 years and led the country till 1984.

34) **Kailash Satyarthi** selected for 2015 Harvard Humanitarian of the Year Award. He has been awarded this award in recognition for championing the cause of child reform and ending all forms of violence against children.

### **35) Nobel Prize winners**

#### **The Nobel Prize in Physics 2015**

**Takaaki Kajita and Arthur B. McDonald**

"for the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass"

#### **The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015**

Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich and Aziz Sancar

"for mechanistic studies of DNA repair"

#### **The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2015**

William C. Campbell and Satoshi Ōmura

"for their discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites"

Youyou Tu

"for her discoveries concerning a novel therapy against Malaria"

#### **The Nobel Prize in Literature 2015**

Svetlana Alexievich

"for her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time"

#### **The Nobel Peace Prize 2015**

National Dialogue Quartet

"for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011"

**[All the best by Ur GK buddy Suryansh]**